

The UPU Surcharges issue of 1887 and the issues of 1888 at  $2\frac{4}{8}$  Centavos de Peso were the last overprinted issues from the overprint period in 1880s. A royal decree was issued March 22, 1889, directing and ordering that from August 1 of that self-same year, no surcharged issues should be used for any purpose whatsoever. It was probably envisaged that the forthcoming issue, bearing the effigy of the young king, Alfonso XIII (the so-called "Babyhead" issue), would be ready for the use by that date.



Cover mailed from Iloilo April 6, 1889 to Manila. It was franked with a  $2\frac{4}{8}$  Centimos de Peso stamp, issued 1888. The stamp was cancelled in Iloilo by a Parilla cancel. In addition, a faint imprint of the "CORREOS / ILOILO" stamp was applied on the front side. On the back the "CORREOS / MANILA" in blue was affixed on April 8, 1889.

The production of the stamp by overprinting 110,000 unissued stamps at 10 Centavos was approved by Order by Public Treasury Department of the Philippines, Manila on October 4, 1888.

The interior postage rate was 25 Milésimas de Peso respectively  $2\frac{4}{8}$  Centavos de Peso per 15 grams by the Royal Decree of November 10, 1884. The rate was applicable until April 21, 1891.

Provenance: Julian Cabarrus